

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sony HD Camcorder HDW-f900. Claims 21 and 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-18 and 23-31 have been allowed. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sony HD Camcorder HDW-f900. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a novel lens mount apparatus that is intended to replace the conventional lens mount provided with a camcorder. To install the lens mount apparatus of the present invention, the conventional faceplate and lens mount/image detector unit provided with the camcorder are first removed from the camcorder. Next, the conventional lens mount/image detector unit is attached to a replacement faceplate having a lens support ring, forming the basic lens mount apparatus of the present invention. Because the replacement faceplate is shaped and sized to be attachable the outer front and top surfaces of the camcorder, the lens mount apparatus may then be attached to the camcorder. The lens mount apparatus of the present invention, having more structural integrity than the conventional lens mount provided with the camcorder, is able to accept much larger and heavier lenses than the conventional lens mount.

The Sony HD Camcorder HDW-f900 (hereinafter the "Sony HD Camcorder"), as illustrated in FIGs. 1 and 2, contains no disclosure at all related to a lens mount apparatus provided "separately and alternatively to a lens mount provided with the video camera," as recited in claim 19. In other words, claim 19 recites a lens mount apparatus that is intended to replace the lens mount provided with the camera, and is therefore separate and different from the lens mount provided with the camera. The lens mount apparatus on the Sony HD Camcorder cited by the Examiner as equivalent to the lens mount apparatus recited in claim 19 is actually the conventional lens mount that is replaced by the novel lens mount apparatus recited in claim 19. The Sony HD

Camcorder only discloses a thin face plate 16 provided with the camera, which is removed and is not part of the present invention. Instead, it is replaced by a reinforcing structure (see replacement faceplate 100 in FIGs. 3 and 4) recited in claim 19 which is fitted to the camera body (front and top) and is much thicker and stronger than the thin face plate 16 provided with the Sony HD Camcorder.

Because the Sony HD Camcorder does not contain all of the limitations of claim 19, the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sony HD Camcorder HDW-f900 is traversed. Furthermore, because claim 20 depends from claim 19, the rejection of claim 19 is traversed for the same reasons provided above with respect to claim 19.

Claims 21 and 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Because claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 19, the objections to claims 21 and 22 are traversed for the same reasons provided above with respect to claim 19.

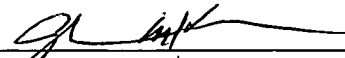
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5752 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 490962001600.

Dated: September 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Glenn M. Kubota
Registration No.: 44,197
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
555 West Fifth Street, Suite 3500
Los Angeles, California 90013
(213) 892-5200